

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (original): An aqueous coating composition comprising:

- a) 1 to 64 wt % of a non-crosslinkable water-dispersible oligomer(s);
- b) 4 to 76 wt % of a dispersed polymer(s);
- c) 0 to 20 wt % of co-solvent;
- d) 20 to 80 wt % of water;

where $a) + b) + c) + d) = 100\%$;

where the weight ratio of a) : b) is in the range of from 8:92 to 80:20; and

wherein said composition when drying to form a coating has the following properties:

- i) an open time of at least 20 minutes;
- ii) a wet edge time of at least 10 minutes;
- iii) a tack-free time of ≤ 24 hours;
- iv) an equilibrium viscosity of $\leq 5,000$ Pa.s, at any solids content when drying

in the range of from 20 to 55 % by weight of the composition, using any shear rate in the range of from 9 ± 0.5 to 90 ± 5 s⁻¹ and at $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$.

2. (original): An aqueous coating composition according to claim 1 wherein said non-crosslinkable oligomer(s) has a solution viscosity ≤ 150 Pa.s, as determined from a 80% by weight solids solution of the non-crosslinkable oligomer(s) in at least one of the solvents selected from the group consisting of N-methylpyrrolidone, n-butylglycol and mixtures thereof, using a shear rate of 90 ± 5 s⁻¹ and at $50 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$.

3. (original): An aqueous coating composition according to claim 1 wherein said non-crosslinkable oligomer(s) has a solution viscosity ≤ 250 Pa.s, as determined from a 70% by weight solids solution of the non-crosslinkable oligomer(s) in a solvent mixture consisting of:

- i) at least one of the solvents selected from the group consisting of N-methylpyrrolidone, n-butylglycol and mixtures thereof;

- ii) water and
- iii) N,N-dimethylethanolamine;

where i), ii) and iii) are in weight ratios of 20/7/3 respectively, using a shear rate of $90 \pm 5 \text{ s}^{-1}$ and at $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$.

4. (currently amended): An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein said non-crosslinkable oligomer(s) is selected from the group comprising polyurethane oligomer(s), vinyl oligomer(s), polyamide oligomer(s), polyether oligomer(s), polysiloxane oligomer(s), polyester oligomer(s), hyperbranched oligomer(s) and/or mixtures thereof.

5. (currently amended): An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein said composition has an equilibrium viscosity $\leq 5,000 \text{ Pa.s}$ when measured using any shear rate in the range of from 0.09 ± 0.005 to $90 \pm 5 \text{ s}^{-1}$, and an equilibrium viscosity of $\leq 3,000 \text{ Pa.s}$ when measured using any shear rate in the range of from 0.9 ± 0.05 to $90 \pm 5 \text{ s}^{-1}$, and an equilibrium viscosity of $\leq 1,500 \text{ Pa.s}$ when measured using any shear rate in the range of from 9 ± 0.5 to $90 \pm 5 \text{ s}^{-1}$, at any solids content when drying in the range of from 20 to 55% by weight of the composition and at $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$.

6. (currently amended): An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the non-crosslinkable oligomer(s) has a measured weight average molecular weight in the range of from 1,000 to 80,000 Daltons.

7. (currently amended): An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the non-crosslinkable oligomer(s) has a $\text{PDI} \leq 15$.

8. (currently amended): An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the non-crosslinkable oligomer(s) has a measured T_g in the range of from -120 to 250°C .

9. (currently amended): An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the dispersed polymer(s) has a measured weight average molecular weight $\geq 90,000$ Daltons.
10. (currently amended): An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the dispersed polymer(s) has a measured weight average molecular weight $< 90,000$ Daltons with the proviso that the dispersed polymer(s) has a solution viscosity > 150 Pa.s, as determined from a 80% by weight solids solution of the dispersed polymer(s) in at least one of the solvents selected from the group consisting of N-methylpyrrolidone, n-butylglycol and mixtures thereof, using a shear rate of $90 \pm 5 \text{ s}^{-1}$ and at $50 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$.
11. (currently amended): An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the dispersed polymer(s) has particle size in the range of from 25 to 1000nm.
12. (currently amended): An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the dispersed polymer(s) has an acid value below 150mgKOH/g.
13. (currently amended): An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the dispersed polymer(s) has a measured Tg in the range of from -50 to 300°C .
14. (currently amended): An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the dispersed polymer(s) is a vinyl polymer.
15. (currently amended): An aqueous coating composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 additionally comprising a pigment.

16. A coating obtainable from an aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1.